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Elephant and Seladang Hunting in the Federated Malay States.

By Theodore R. Hubback. xv and 288 pp., and 17 Illustrations from Photographs. Rowland Ward, London, 1905. (Price, 10s. 6d.)

Parts of the Malay peninsula are still very little known, and, in fact, this small region has been the scene, within the past three years, of pioneer explorations, which the BULLETIN has recorded. The author's wanderings in this territory have therefore a taste of novelty, and his excellent pictures of Sakais and characteristic landscapes are very acceptable. He keeps, however, so closely in touch with his hunting exploits that little geography is to be extracted from the volume. The evidence he gives that the elephant and seladang (wild buffalo) are as dangerous and formidable game as sportsmen can be asked to encounter is quite convincing.

Some Cities and San Francisco and Resurgam. By Hubert Howe Bancroft. 64 pp. The Bancroft Company, New York, 1907. (Price, 50c.)

A brief treatment of many cities, showing especially how great fires have tended to bring about improvement in their rebuilding and adornment and have often been blessings in disguise. After the Great Fire of 1666 London was rebuilt better than before, in three and a half years. But for purifying fires Constantinople would still have only narrow, filthy streets. Glasgow is practically modern, having been several times renovated by fire. Mr. Bancroft sketches the beginning of San Francisco, "which a merciful Providence has five times burned, the original shacks and their successors, the last time thoroughly, giving the inhabitants the opportunity to build something better." The author presents his views at length as to what the new-risen San Francisco should be, now that the ground has been cleared from obstructions.

The Lower Niger and its Tribes. By Major Arthur Glyn Leonard.

xiii and 559 pp., Index and Map. MacMillan & Co., London, 1906. (Price, 12s. 6d.)

This book is the outcome of ten years of study of languages and peoples, chiefly in the British colony of Southern Nigeria. The Cambridge ethnologist, Prof. A. C. Haddon, who supplies the preface, says that Major Leonard for a decade patiently studied native life and thought and never lost a chance of getting into touch with the natives, even though he sometimes risked his life, for some of the tribes were not yet under British influence. The book deals chiefly with the natural religions and the philosophy of the various tribes. It is soundly based upon anthropogeography and is infused with scientific spirit and also with warm sympathy for the Negro races. It was by getting into close touch with them that the author acquired the knack of seeing things from their point of view; and the more deeply he studied them, the more certain he felt that the white man had not understood the negro. The volume he has written is his interpretation of negro thought and expression.

He fully recognizes the influence of geographical environment upon human development, and gives a good description of Southern Nigeria, with its network of waterways and the painful monotony of its mangrove swamps, because he believes it will help the reader to understand more clearly the ordinary characteristics as well as the idiosyncrasies of peoples who live amid such surroundings.

The author also emphasizes the close relation that exists between the social condition of the people and their religion. At the head of the family stands the

Father or Fertilizer, who has power over life and death; next comes the Mother, who is honoured as the nourisher and producer of the Eldest Son; the Eldest Son ranks next; and then the Elders of the various branches of the household. The gods of a community are evolved along with its own development and expansion. In this notice we may paraphrase the excellent summary given by Professor Haddon of the religious notions of these peoples as shown by Major Leonard.

The importance of the father, mother, and son in the human family led naturally to the adoration of analogous family gods; thus among the Ibani, Adum was the father of all the gods and he espoused Okoba, the principal goddess and mother of Eberebo, the son-god, a very intelligent, subtle and brave deity, to whom children are dedicated and thereby partake of his good qualities.

Evidence is accumulating to prove the spirituality of many savage and barbaric peoples. Even those most backward in material culture are imbued with ethical and religious ideas, which do not materially differ from those inculcated by teachers of the religions of civilized peoples.

The religion of the Niger delta natives is based on the adoration of ancestral spirits materially represented by emblems. These objects are regarded as vehicles of spiritual influence because of their direct association with some powerful spirit. The emblem becomes nothing more nor less than a sacred receptacle. It can itself do no harm or confer any blessing, but it is the spirit, which is always ancestral, that does evil or good to mortals.

Worship consists mainly of homage and adoration. Prayers must be short and to the point. Here is a sample:

Preserve our lives, O Spirit Father who hast gone before, and make thy house fruitful, so that we, thy children, shall increase, multiply, and so grow rich and powerful.

Religion is a personal or family matter, not a public affair; and while priests act as go-betweens when the petitioners are supposed not to be on good terms with the spirits, the powerful families dispense with priests, as the ancestral spirits possess a power that can make itself felt.

The natives are seen at their worst in witchcraft, where we are confronted with only the evil aspect of nature. This remarkable book is one that cannot be ignored by students of psychology and anthropology.

Reisen in Celebes ausgeführt in den Jahren 1893, 1896 und 1902-1903. Von Paul und Fritz Sarasin. Mit 240 Abbildungen im Text, 12 Tafeln in Heliogravüre und Farbendruck, 11 Karten. Vol. 1, pages xviii and 381, Vol. 2, x and 390. Wiesbaden, C. W. Kriedel's Verlag, 1905.

A well-written record and highly interesting in itself, this report of exploration into territory altogether unknown looks two ways toward former work by the authors, and each aspect presents a worthy value. So far as relates to the preliminary reports of their researches, hurried home from the field and with no chance for the authors to revise the matter, these volumes afford an opportunity to correct slips and misstatements, and at the same time to discuss criticisms passed upon those earlier reports. So far as relates to the more formal presentation of the results of these two missions into the unknown (from a long list we need specify their "Materialien zur Naturgeschichte der Insel Celebes," which fills four volumes) these two volumes supply the valuable record of the terrain in which and the circumstances under which this discovery or that yielded to their keen search. While these volumes are altogether based upon the day books of